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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Michio YAMAJI et al

Serial No.: 09/437,296

Filed: November 9, 1999

For: FLUID COUPLING



Group Art Unit: 3626

Examiner: Not yet assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND
CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)**

Director of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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May 3, 2000

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these references is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application and/or the issuance of a first official action on the merits, but prior to issuance of either a final official action or a Notice of Allowance.

The undersigned hereby certifies

XX that each item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement, or

-- that no item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no information contained in this statement was known

to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI,
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WGK/klh

Enclosures: PTO-1449 and 4 references
Search Report under Section 17(5) dated March 30, 2000